



Police Jury Association

NEWS LETTER

707 NORTH 7TH STREET • BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802-5327 • (225) 343-2835 • FAX (225) 343-0050 or 336-1344

June 3, 2005

TO: Executive Board Members
Parish Presidents/Chairmen
Secretary Treasurers & Council Clerks
Parish Managers/Administrators
Region Presidents

FROM: Roland J. Dartez, Executive Director 

2005 REGULAR SESSION REPORT NO. 6 JUST THREE WEEKS LEFT

There are just three short weeks left in the session. The pace will be increasing as bills face the prospect of dying on the calendar. "Good" and "bad" can happen in the long hours and the frantic pace of the final weeks. A number of our legislative priorities are still in the process and we will need your help to bring them home. A few of those priorities are HB 625, HB 210, and HB 688. In these final weeks we will need your help to contact legislators and stress the importance of the needs of parish government.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS TAX PENDING ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

HB 688 is still pending on the House Floor. The PJAL and the LMA have gained the support of the Fire and Police Unions who recognize that this additional revenue can help address pending issues of police and fire retirement. Before we move forward we need to know if we have the votes to win. A number of legislators are undecided. You need to contact your representative and let us know if they will support parish government and vote "YES" on HB 688.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND ASK IF WE HAVE THEIR VOTE FOR HB 688

BUDGET NOTES: HB 1 - Being considered by Senate Finance; **HB 2** - Being considered by Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (make sure your projects stay in the bill)

COMING UP IN THE WEEK OF JUNE 6th - JUNE 10th

- HB 688, the Telecommunications Tax, is scheduled to be heard on the House Floor.
- HB 517 will save the PGRMA WC fund litigation by lawyers trying to twist a general insurance provision to get millions of dollars in penalties from WC self-insurance funds, like the PGRMA WC Fund. It is set for the House Labor Committee on Thursday. **URGE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO SUPPORT HB 517.**
- HB 625 the off-duty witness fee and JP salary bill is scheduled to be heard on the Senate Floor. Contact your Senator to urge their **SUPPORT OF HB 625.**
- SB 353 (the RR Crossing bill) has been reworked, with the DOTD accepting our proposals. The current proposal does not impact the Parish Transportation Fund. It should be on the Senate Floor soon.
- HB 415 would repeal the January bond election date. It has been returned to the calendar but could be pulled and heard on the House floor any day. **URGE YOUR DELEGATION TO OPPOSE HB 415.**
- HB 210 will be in the House Appropriations Committee on Monday. This bill will confirm that every parish may participate in the US Communities Program, through NACo. **URGE SUPPORT OF HB 210**
- SB 98 will mandate collective bargaining with public employee unions and subject us to binding arbitration. Currently, recognition of unions is voluntary. **URGE YOUR SENATOR TO OPPOSE SB 98**
- SB 345 would preempt local smoking ordinances. **URGE YOUR SENATORS TO OPPOSE SB 345**
- SB 126 will unilaterally change the consensus agreement on the limitations on local government providing cable or telecommunications service. **URGE YOUR SENATOR TO OPPOSE SB 126.**

THE WEEK IN REVIEW - May 30th - JUNE 3rd

- **Millage Roll-Forward and Assessment Bills** - Senate Committee deferred all of these bills with the exception of bills to allow for special assessment freeze for disabled property owners.
- **SB's 96 & 108** - The bills to heighten roll-forward notice requirements passed the Senate with our amendments.
- **HB 52** - The bill to increase the income limit from \$57,000 to \$70,000 for the special assessment of property owned by the elderly failed 63-29. As a constitutional amendment it required 70 votes.
- **SB 4** - The bill providing for an exception to allow "Parish" in a non-profit corporate name was reported Favorably by the House Committee We have informed the author that our Ex. Board has decided to let our members vote, at our 2006 Annual Convention, on whether to change our name.
- **Elections Omnibus Bill** - The bill was amended in Senate Committee to remove a mandated increase in the rental cost for private property polling places.

SECRETARY TREASURERS/COUNCIL CLERKS. PLEASE MAKE AND DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF THIS REPORT TO YOUR JURORS, COUNCILMEN AND OTHER OFFICIALS